Competition due to FDI in print media

†1283. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the possible competition between domestic and foreign newspapers due to their decisions of allowing FDI in print media; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to check such competition and keep the existence of domestic newspapers intact?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The decision to permit FDI upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs does not envisage the publishing of foreign newspapers in India. Hence the question of competition does not arise.

SAG Officers in DD/AIR

1284. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of officers in Senior Administrative Grade and above sanctioned in the subordinate offices of Akashvani and Doordarshan;

(b) whether much before imlementing the recommendations of the Pay Commission, the Ministry of Personnel has issued directives to provide Stenographers of the level of Private Secretary to these officers;

(c) if so, whether the directives have been implemented in subordinate offices of Akashvani/Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to implement the directives fully?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharti has informed that there are 39 sanctioned posts in Senior Administrative Grade and above in the subordinate offices of Akashvani and Doordarshan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (e) Prasar Bharti has informed that 18 posts of Stenographers Grade-I have been upgraded to the level of Private Secretary in the subordinate offices of Akashvani and doordarshan. Further action to create/upgrade posts has been stopped in view of the ban on creation of posts, by the Ministry of Finance.

Advertisements of Liquor Companies

1285. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some liquor companies are advertising their products under different grab such as apple juice;

(b) whether the comanies have been identified; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the companies and the channels showing them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 to take cognisance *suo moto* or look into specific complaints regarding violation of the Adevertisement Code as defined in Rule 7 of the Cable Television Network Rules 1994, including *inter alia*, cases of 'Surrogate advertising', which may arise out of the ban on advertisements, which promote directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, alcohol etc. and recommend action as deemed necessary in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

In the first meeting, the Committee recommended issue of show cause notices to four channels, for violating the provisions of Rule 7(2)(viii) of the Advertisement Code of the Cable TV Network Rules 1994. These Channels have since sent their replies and confirmed that they have stopped the concerned advertisements till the date matter is examined.

Vacancies in STS Cadre

1286. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 31 vacancies in the STS cadre for STs despite the availability of a number of eligible officers in the Junior Time Scale (JTS) of IB(E)S;